

REMARKS

Regarding the objections to the declaration, and the rejections of claims 14-43 under 35 USC 251 and 37 CFR 1.175, please note that the present application is a division of a prior reissue application having serial no. 10/367,619. As such, the declaration filed in this divisional application was a copy of the declaration filed in the parent reissue application. Enclosed is a copy of the stamped postcard receipt which accompanied the present divisional application. The postcard receipt shows that the declaration was filed with the application, but indicates that only two pages were sent. The declaration in the parent reissue application actually included three pages, so it appears that one of the pages was inadvertently omitted when the declaration was copied for filing with this divisional application. Enclosed is a copy of the complete declaration from the parent reissue application. It will be seen that each of the objections to the declaration is cured by the statements contained on the first page of the declaration.

Also enclosed are three supplemental declarations signed by the applicants (other than James R. Longbottom). The supplemental declarations state that every error in the patent which was corrected in the present reissue application, and which is not covered by the prior declaration submitted in the application, arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicant.

Regarding the lack of James Longbottom's signature on the declarations, a petition to accept the application without the signature of a joint inventor under 37 CFR §1.47(a) was filed in the parent reissue application. The rules do not require that such a petition be filed in divisions of a parent application when the petition was properly filed in the parent application. Enclosed is a copy of the Decision According Status Under 37 CFR §1.47(a) in the parent application. Thus, the signature of James R. Longbottom on the declarations is not required in this divisional application.

Regarding the rejections of claims 14-43 as lacking support in the specification under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, the rejections are respectfully traversed. Claim 14

recites the steps of attaching an expandable hanger to a tubular member, and expanding the hanger within an expanded flow passage of a wellbore connector. In paragraph 8 of the Office Action it is indicated that neither of these steps is described in the specification.

However, please note that the specification repeatedly describes a hanger as being a type of sealing device (see, for example, col. 4 lines 58-60, col. 5 lines 20-23, col. 7 lines 45-48, col. 10 lines 17-22, and col. 16 lines 58-61). The expandable sealing device 266 is described as being usable for any of the previously described sealing devices (see col. 13, lines 33-37). Expansion of the sealing device 266 is described at least at col. 13 lines 47-53 and col. 16 lines 5-13.

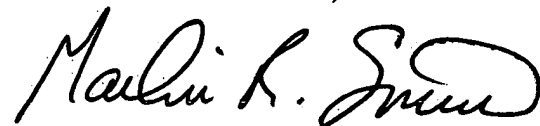
The sealing devices 54, 100, 152 are attached to respective tubular members 52, 98, 150 (see FIGS. 1D, 2D and 3B), and are sealed within expanded flow passages 26, 78, 148 of wellbore connectors 22, 74, 142, respectively. Expansion of a flow passage of a wellbore connector is described at least at col. 4, lines 3-6. Therefore, a person skilled in the art would appreciate that the applicants have described an expandable hanger which is expanded within an expanded flow passage of a wellbore connector.

The examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 14-43 is noted with appreciation. In light of the foregoing remarks and enclosed declarations, a Notice of Allowance of claims 14-43 is earnestly solicited.

The examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for applicants at 972-516-0030 if such would expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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The PTO "received" stamp imprinted herein acknowledges the filing of:

DATE MAILED: MARCH 30, 2004
TITLE OF INVENTION: EXPANDABLE WELLBORE JUNCTION
INVENTOR(S): GANO ET AL. 22858 U.S. PTO
SERIAL NO.: UNASSIGNED 10/812468
FILING DATE: HEREWITH
DOCKET NO.: 97019401DIRID2 USA
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- ☒ CERTIFICATE OF 1ST CLASS EXPRESS MAILING
☐ NEW APPLICATION (____ pgs)
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☒ DRAWINGS: FORMAL/INFORMAL (____ pgs) FIGS F10
☒ IDS (____ pgs) WITH/WITHOUT REFERENCES; PTO/SB/08 (____ pgs)
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